EXCISE

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BELLAMY VERNELL P 06/11/82 115423 PRINTER: LI
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ACTION ACDA-12
INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 OIC-02 CIAE-00
EA-10 H-01 IO-15 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-06
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SP-02 SR-04 SPRS-02 /118 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6828
DIA WASHINGTON DC// IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CDR/FSTC CHARLOTTESVILLE VA
CDRAARAICOM EDGEWOOD ARS MD
DIRUSMAMIIA FT DETRICK MD
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BANGKOK 22895
DIA ALSO FOR DT-1A
E012065: GDS 4/26/88 (ROY, J. STAPLETON) OR-M
TAGS: PARM, SHUM, PORG, SOPN, LA, VM, UR, CB
SUBJ: NEW HMONG ARRIVALS ALLEGE LATE MARCH 1982 CBW
-- ATTACK; BLOOD SAMPLES TRANSMITTED
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REF: (A) BANGKOK 21527
1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: PRELIMINARY INTERVIEWS WITH MEMBERS OF A GROUP OF 214 HMONG WHO CROSSED THE MEKONG FROM LAOS APRIL 14, HAVE ELICITED REPORTS OF A LATE MARCH CBW ATTACK AGAINST THE GROUP WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF ONE CHILD AND WHICH MADE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP ILL. PHYSICIANS EXAMINING VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE GROUP HAVE NOTED HEALTH PROBLEMS POSSIBLY RELATED TO THE ALLEGED ATTACK. EMBASSY IS POUCHING THREE BLOOD SAMPLES DRAWN FROM HMONG WHO APPEAR TO BE ILL AS A RESULT OF THE ATTACK. WE ARE ALSO SENDING BLOOD DRAWN FROM A HMONG, NOT OF THE ABOVE GROUP, WHO RECENTLY

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY T. Heavner DATE 8/31/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

DIED FOLLOWING HEMORRHAGE OF UNKNOWN CAUSE, AND WHO MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO CBW AGENTS WHILE IN LAOS. END SUMMARY.
3. ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 14, 214 HMONG CROSSED THE MEKONG FROM LAOS [redacted] THE FOLLOWING MORNING EMBOFF HAPPENED ON THE GROUP ENCAMPED ALONGSIDE THE ROAD UNDER THAI GUARD. THE HMONG CLAIMED TO HAVE EXPERIENCED CBW ATTACKS IN LAOS. [redacted] CONDUCTED PRELIMINARY INTERVIEWS WITH MEMBERS OF THE GROUP APRIL 18-20. THE FOLLOWING BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ATTACK AND RESULTING SIGNS/SYMPTOMS OF THE VICTIMS ARE DRAWN FROM HIS NOTES AND FROM THOSE OF BAN VI NAY PHYSICIANS. B1A5 B1A9
4. GROUP COMPOSITION: ADULTS (13 AND OVER FOR THE
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HMONG), 102 (INCLUDING 47 MALE AND 55 FEMALE); CHILDREN, 112 (INCLUDING 48 MALE AND 64 FEMALE). THE GROUP COMPRISES 29 FAMILIES. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FEMALES IN THE FINAL TRIMESTER OF PREGNANCY.
5. THE ATTACK: IN LATE MARCH, AN AIR-DELIVERED AGENT FELL ON A VILLAGE NAMED PHA HOUIE (POSSIBLY PAK HOUAY VICTF0962), WHERE THE GROUP WAS TEMPORARILY STAYING ENROUTE FROM ITS HOME NEAR PHU BIA TO THAILAND. ACCOUNTS VARY AS TO THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF AIRCRAFT INVOLVED.
6. THE AGENT: THE AGENT WAS VARIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS YELLOW AND YELLOW- RED - BROWN. IN THE AIR IT LOOKED LIKE A SMOKE BUT ON THE GROUND IT DRIED QUICKLY TO FORM A POWDER.
7. SYMPTOMS/SIGNS: MEMBERS OF THE GROUP DESCRIBED THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS/SIGNS: VERTIGO, FAINTING, NAUSEA, VOMITING, DIARRHEA (WITH BLOOD), COUGHING (WITH BLOOD), TACHYCARDIA, SKIN IRRITATIONS WITH ITCHING OFTEN BECOMING INFECTED, AND DECREASED HEARING AND DISTANT VISION. ONE FOUR YEAR OLD CHILD DIED IN THE ATTACK AFTER SEVERE VOMITING AND DIARRHEA WITH BLOOD FOR 24 HOURS.
8. WE ARE POUCHING THREE TUBES OF BLOOD (HEPARINIZED BUT UNREFRIGERATED FOR APPROXIMATELY 8 HOURS IMMEDIATELY AFTER DRAWN APRIL 17). BLOOD WAS DRAWN ON THE FOLLOWING: [redacted] AGE 8 YEARS: PHYSICIANS AT BAN VI NAY SAY THE BOY CLAIMED HE COUGHED WITH YELLOW SPUTUM AND THAT HE WAS SEVERELY ILL AT THE TIME OF THE GASSING SUFFERING ALSO BLOODY DIARRHEA, AND COUGH WITH BLOOD. PHYSICIANS NOTED HE NOW SUFFERS CHRONIC BITET AND PELLAGRA AND IS VERY ANEMIC. HIS CHEST WAS CLEAR. [redacted] AGE 6 YEARS: PHYSICIANS NOTED THE BOY WAS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION Ø2 OF Ø2 BANGKOK 22895
DIA ALSO FOR DT-1A
GROSSLY ANEMIC, SUFFERED CHRONIC BITET AND SPLENOMEGALLY. B1A9
HIS CHEST WAS CLEAR. [redacted] PHYSICIANS NOTED
SHE SUFFERED DIARRHEA WITH BLEEDING AND ABDOMINAL PAIN.
PHYSICIANS NOTED SPECIFICALLY THAT MANY OF THE HMONG

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IN THE GROUP HAD SKIN RASHES THAT WERE NOT SCABIES AND
NOT OTHERWISE IDENTIFIABLE. (WE WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN
EXTENSIVE MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY OF SKIN CONDITIONS DURING
ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS NEXT WEEK.)
9. WE ALSO ARE INCLUDING A BLOOD SAMPLE DRAWN FROM BOON
CHEN SROI, A 25-YEAR-OLD HMONG WHO DIED APRIL 17
FOLLOWING A GI HEMORRHAGE OF UNKNOWN CAUSE. THE
HMONG WAS TRANSFERRED TO LOEI PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL JUST
PRIOR TO HIS DEATH. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN A FINAL
HOSPITAL REPORT. THE PATIENT WAS BARELY COHERENT IN
HIS FINAL DAYS AND AT VARIOUS TIMES CLAIMED TO HAVE
EXPERIENCED A CBW ATTACK. AT OTHER TIMES HOWEVER, HE
SAID HE HAD NOT EXPERIENCED ANY CBW ATTACKS.

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10. POUCHING DETAILS: BLOOD SAMPLES WERE SENT BY POUCH NO. K4-543, INVOICE NUMBER 2602684511, TO ARRIVE AT DULLES 1730 HOURS APRIL 23 ABOARD PANAM FLIGHT 107 FROM LONDON. THE POUCH, WRAPPED IN PLASTIC, WAS TO BE KEPT IN THE AIRCRAFT'S "CHILLER" DURING FLIGHT.
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